

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 495
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AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 0875

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ILO ELAB TD
SUBJ: HOROWITZ VISIT TO TRINIDAD TO DISCUSS ILO ISSUES

REF: STATE 49411(NOTAL)

SUMMARY: HOROWITZ MET WITH SENIOR FOREIGN MINISTRY
OFFICIAL, MINISTER OF LABOR, AND WORKER AND EMPLOYER
REPRESENTATIVES TO THE ILO DURING HIS VISIT TO TRINIDAD.
THE RESPONSE TO HIS PRESENTATION WAS SYMPATHETIC AND
GENERALLY AFFIRMATIVE. GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES DID
NOT MAKE COMMITMENTS, BUT DID INDICATE THEY WERE
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FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD THE US POSITION. THE EM-
PLOYER AND WORKER REPRESENTATIVES WERE MUCH MORE
POSITIVE, PROMISING SUPPORT FOR US INITIATIVES AND
GOALS IN THE ILO. DISCUSSIONS HERE HIGHLIGHTED DESIRA-
BILITY OF COMPLEMENTARY REPRESENTATIONS BEING MADE IN
OTHER CARIBBEAN CAPITALS WHICH WILL BE REPRESENTED AT
DISCUSSION OF ILO ISSUES AT MAY MEETING OF CARIBBEAN

LABOR MINISTERS. END SUMMARY.

1. DANIEL HOROWITZ (USREPRESENTATIVE TO THE ILO) AND AMBASSADOR FAY MET WITH DR. LENNOX BALLAH, ACTING PERMANENT SECRETARY IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, ON MARCH 28. (FOREIGN MINISTER JOHN DONALDSON WAS UNFORTUNATELY OUT OF TOWN. AMBASSADOR FAY DID USE OPPORTUNITY PROVIDED BY A FAREWELL CALL ON DONALDSON ON MARCH 29 TO REMIND DONALDSON OF THE HOROWITZ VISIT AND UNDERSCORE THE IMPORTANCE OF ILO INITIATIVE TO US.) HOROWITZ PRESENTED THE AMERICAN POSITION ON THE ILO, STRESSING THE FOUR BASIC PROBLEMS MENTIONED IN THE 1975 LETTER AND THE SPECIFIC ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE ILO IN JUNE WHICH WILL BE CENTRAL TO THE US DECISION REGARDING REMAINING IN THE ILO. HOROWITZ ASKED FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE GOTT GENERALLY IN RETURNING THE ILO TO ITS ORIGINAL PURPOSES AND SPECIFICALLY IN INSTRUCTING ITS REPRESENTATIVES TO SUPPORT INITIATIVES WHICH WE CONSIDER CRITICAL TO THIS PROCESS.

2. BALLAH EXPRESSED REGRET THAT FOREIGN MINISTER DONALDSON HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO RECEIVE HOROWITZ BUT PROMISED TO CONVEY THE US VIEWS TO THE MINISTER. BALLAH SAID THAT THE GOTT FIRMLY SUPPORTED THE ILO, ITS TRIPARTITE STRUCTURE, AND ITS CONTINUED VIABILITY. BALLAH DID NOT COMMIT THE GOTT TO A SPECIFIC COURSE OF ACTION BUT SAID THAT THE ISSUE WOULD BE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED BY THE CABINET.

3. HOROWITZ MET LATER IN THE DAY WITH MINISTER OF LABOR DESMOND CARTEY, THE MINISTRY'S PERMANENT SECRETARY GEORGE PATRICK, AND GOTT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE CONFIDENTIAL

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ILO FRANCIS CORBIE. HOROWITZ RESTATED THE US POSITION ON THE ILO AND ELICITED CORROBORATION FROM CORBIE, WHO REPRESENTED THE GOTT ON THE GOVERNING BODY, CONCERNING THE SERIOUSLY DAMAGING EFFECT WHICH THE POLITICIZATION OF THE ILO HAS HAD ON THE ORGANIZATION.

4. MINISTER CARTEY SAID THAT THE GOTT STRONGLY SUPPORTED THE ILO AND THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF THE US AS A MEMBER AND A MAJOR FINANCIAL SUPPORTER OF THE ORGANIZATION. HE SAID THAT HIS MINISTRY AND THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS WOULD SUBMIT A PROPOSAL TO CABINET TO GET A DECISION ON THE POSITION TO BE TAKEN ON THE ISSUES PRESENTED BY THE USG. HE SAID THAT HE FULLY APPRECIATED THE US POSITION AND SINCERELY HOPED THAT THE US WOULD NOT BE FORCED TO WITHDRAW FROM THE ILO.

5. CARTEY STATED THAT HE EXPECTED TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE IN JUNE AND WOULD BE CONSULTING WITH SOME OF HIS FELLOW CARICOM LABOR MINISTERS AT A CONFERENCE MAY 9-12 IN AN ATTEMPT TO REACH A COMMON POSITION ON ILO. THE ISSUES WILL BE BROUGHT BEFORE THE MEETING IN

A REPORT WHICH TRINIDAD WILL SUBMIT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE GOVERNING BODY AND CARTEY HOPES TO BE ABLE TO MOVE FROM THE REPORT TO A CONSENSUS OF SUPPORT FOR THE US POSITIONS. IN VIEW OF THE PRESENT TRENDS IN THE CARIBBEAN AND THE DIFFERENT INDUSTRIAL DIRECTION WHICH TRINIDAD HAD TAKEN, HOWEVER, HE WAS NOT AT ALL SURE THAT SUCH AN AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED, AND HE BELIEVED IT LIKELY THAT EACH COUNTRY WOULD GO ITS OWN WAY AT THE ILO CONFERENCE. HE SAID IT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL IF MR. HOROWITZ OR OTHER REPRESENTATIVES OF THE USG MADE SPECIFIC APPROACHES TO THE OTHER ILO-MEMBER GOVERNMENTS WHICH WILL BE REPRESENTED AT THE LABOR MINISTERS MEETING--BARBADOS, BAHAMAS, GUYANA, JAMAICA, AND SURINAM--SO THAT THE GOTT WILL NOT HAVE TO ACT AS SOLE SPOKESMAN FOR THE US POSITION.

6. HOROWITZ ALSO DISCUSSED THE ILO SITUATION WITH DIANA MAHABIR, DIRECTOR OF THE T&T EMPLOYERS CONSULTA-
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TIVE ASSOCIATION AND THE EMPLOYER REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ILO. MS. MAHABIR WAS VERY FAMILIAR WITH THE ISSUES AND PROMISED FULL SUPPORT FOR THE US EFFORT.

7. MS. MAHABIR VOLUNTEERED THAT AT THE 1977 CONFERENCE SHE WOULD UNDERSTUDY GEORGE POLITES, THE AUSTRALIAN EMPLOYER REPRESENTATIVE, AS CHAIRMAN OF THE EMPLOYER GROUP IN THE COMMITTEE ON THE APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS AND WOULD TAKE OVER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE GROUP THE FOLLOWING YEAR. AS A CONSEQUENCE, SHE WILL NOT BE ON THE STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE THIS YEAR AND THE EMPLOYERS GROUP IN THIS COMMITTEE WILL BE HEADED BY THE DUTCH REPRESENTATIVE.

8. THE US POSITION WAS ALSO EXPLAINED IN DISCUSSIONS WHICH HOROWITZ HELD WITH JAMES MANSWELL, PRESIDENT OF THE T&T LABOR CONGRESS AND WORKER REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ILO, AND WITH THE OTHER LABOR LEADERS WHO WILL ATTEND THE JUNE CONFERENCE. MANSWELL INDICATED THAT HE SHARED THE US CONCERN WITH EXISTING TRENDS IN THE ILO AND WOULD SUPPORT MOVES TO REVERSE THESE UNDERSIRABLE DEVELOPMENTS. OTHER MEMBERS OF THE WORKER DELEGATION, NOTABLY SENATOR NATHANIEL CRICLOW, WERE EVEN MORE POSITIVE AND SAID THAT THEY WOULD WORK TO PERSUADE THE GOTT TO GIVE POSITIVE SUPCSNRB THE INITIATIVES ADVOCATED BY THE USG.

9. COMMENT: THE REACTIONS IN TRINIDAD TO THE HOROWITZ VISIT WERE GENERALLY AFFIRMATIVE. WHILE A FINAL GOVERNMENT POSITION MUST BE MADE BY THE CABINET AND WILL BE STRONGLY INFLUENCED BY THE GOTT'S DESIRE NOT TO BE OUT OF STEP WITH THE THIRD WORLD, WE ARE OPTIMISTIC THAT THE GOTT WILL WORK WITH US TO ACHIEVE OUR GOALS IN THE ILO CONFERENCE. TO THIS END, WE STRONGLY

RECOMMEND SPECIFIC APPROACHES BE MADE TO THE OTHER
CARIBBEAN GOVERNMENTS MENTIONED IN PARAGRAPH 5 BEFORE
THE CARIBBEAN LABOR MINISTERS MEETING ON MAY 9-12.
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Message Attributes

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